

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**TOWN OF GRAFTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 8, 2017**

MINUTES

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Grafton was held on Monday, May 8, 2017 in the Auditorium of the Grafton High School at 7:30 p.m.

Upon order of the Moderator Raymond Mead, 217 Brigham Hill Road, checkers were stationed at the entrances to the hall, using voting lists on which to check the names of those persons who entered.

The Moderator opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. (Special Town Meeting ran late) and welcomed all present.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Jennifer Thomas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Mead advised all present of the procedures used during Town Meeting.

Mr. Mead then appointed David Robbins, 92 George Hill Road, as Deputy Moderator.

Mr. Mead recognized Ginny Kremer, Town Counsel, Town Clerk, Donna Girouard, and Tim McNerney, Town Administrator. Representative David Muradian was also recognized and spoke briefly about the House Budget.

Mr. Mead recognized Boy Scout Troop 106 who was in attendance to observe the Town Meeting process.

Town Clerk, Donna Girouard read the return of the warrant.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Edward Prisby read the State of the Town.

ARTICLE 1. HEAR REPORTS OF OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to hear the reports of the several Town Officers, Boards and Committees as printed in the 2016 Town Report without ratification of any action or authorization of any action.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 2. APPOINT TRUSTEE OF NELSON PARK AND MEMORIAL

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to appoint Rosemary Haseltine as a Trustee of the Nelson Park and Memorial Library and Building Fund for a term of three years.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 3. TOWN'S SHARE OF NET OPERATING COSTS – BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$808,968, for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the net operating costs of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (the "District") for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 4. BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

Upon motion of Sargon Hanna, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$53,401, to fund the principal and interest costs for FY18 to be incurred by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for its capital expansion project.

The Moderator declared the vote carried.

ARTICLE 5. FY18 BUDGETS

Motion was made by Brook Padgett, to raise and appropriate \$53,720,617 and appropriate \$1,509,764 from Sewer Receipts, and transfer \$37,888 from Sewer Betterments, for a total appropriation of \$55,268,269 all as recommended by the Town Administrator for the purpose of funding the operation of the several Town Departments in the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017.

After holding on the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, School Department, Veteran's and Nelson Library budgets, an amended motion was made by Brook Padgett to raise and appropriate \$19,787,157 and appropriate \$1,509,764 from Sewer Receipts, and transfer \$37,888 from Sewer Betterments for the purposes of funding the operation of the several Town Departments in the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 5-A. Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$151,600 for the Board of Selectmen budget to hold money to support personnel increases for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 5-B. Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$356,936 for the Town Administrator budget as printed for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 5-C. Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$33,261,500 for the School budget as printed for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 5-D. Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$163,424 for the Veteran's budget as printed for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 5-E. Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$0.00 for the Nelson Library budget as printed for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the vote carried.

ARTICLE 6. TRANSPORTATION BOND BILL

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$498,393 as an available source as requested by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, and improvements, including surface treatments and other incidental work, said sum to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth under the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill, so-called, and amendments thereto.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 7. AUTHORIZE BOARD TO ACCEPT & ENTER INTO CONTRACTS

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for construction, reconstruction, or improvements to public roads.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 8. REAUTHORIZE REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

Upon motion of Sargon Hanna, it was voted to reauthorize the revolving accounts as specified in the warrant, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ for fiscal year 2018, which begins on July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the vote carried.

ARTICLE 9. PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR GRAFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPANSION

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to accept the preliminary design for the Grafton Public Library building as prepared by Drummey, Rosane Anderson (DRA) for purposes of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) grant application.

Beth Galloway, Grafton Public Library Director, gave a brief presentation to update on the project.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 10. PUBLIC LIBRARY APPROPRIATION FROM DEBT EXCLUSION

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$16,597,997.00 to fund the construction, renovation and expansion of the Grafton Public Library, to fund demolition, landscaping, paving, utility and other site improvement incidental or directly related to such construction, renovation and expansion, to fund necessary architectural, engineering or other professional and legal expenses and fees associated with this project, to fund temporary library operational space, storage and moving expenses, to fund furnishings and equipment and to fund the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto; to authorize the town to apply for and accept any grants or loans available for the project, including a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$16,597,997 by issuance and sale of bonds or notes of the Town in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(1) as amended, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Grafton Public Library Planning & Building Committee established under Article 6 of the October 17, 2011 Town Meeting which is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this vote; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Board of Selectmen has determined, which determination shall be conclusive, that the Town has been awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Library Commissioners in the amount of at least 45% of eligible costs of the project and that the amount of the authorized borrowing shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received for the project prior to the issuance of bonds or notes hereunder; and provided further, that this vote shall not

take effect until the town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed under General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½) the amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

Doug Bowman, Member of the Library Planning and Building Committee, gave a brief presentation updating on the project.

Finance Committee Chair, Edward Prisby, advised that the Finance Committee had reconsidered and now supports passage of Article 10.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two- thirds vote.

ARTICLE 11. DPW FACILITY APPROPRIATION FROM DEBT EXCLUSION

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to appropriate \$12,700,000 for pre-construction, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new DPW Facility to be located at 48 Old Westboro Road, including the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto, said sum to be expended under the direction of the DPW Facility Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(1) as amended or any other enabling authority; provided, however, that the appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½).

John Bechard, DPW Facility Building Committee Chair, gave a brief presentation to update on the project.

Bruce Spinney, Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair, spoke briefly about the Boards support to the project.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 12. WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to appropriate \$3,000,000 for the design, engineering, and construction associated with the upgrades to the Arcadia Street and Worcester Street sewer pump stations, and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under either the provisions of MGL Chapter 44B of the General Laws or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78.

Paul Cournoyer, Superintendent of Sewers, gave a brief presentation on the project.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 13. SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

Upon motion of Sargon Hanna, it was voted to pass over this article.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 14. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to pass over this article.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 15. FUND FY18 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to appropriate from Free Cash \$846,194, and transfer \$74,006 from available sources for the purposes of funding the FY18 Capital Expenditure Budget said sums to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator as shown on the screen

Chart 1

ACCOUNT NUMBER	NAME	AVAILABLE
1.800.6171.5860	DREDGING OF LAKE RIPPLE	\$12,378
1.800.6210.6322	ART 6, 5/9 POLICE RADIO	\$5,160
1.800.6210.6324	ART 6, 5/9 POLICE VEHICLE	\$1,928
1.800.6630.6325	ART 6 5/16 FERRY ST FENCE	\$5,000
1.800.6420.6308	ART 6, 5/16 5 TON TRUCK	\$15,422
1.800.6420.6309	ART6, 5/16 FORD PICKUP TRUCK	\$11,583
1.800.6300.6318	ART 6 5/16 COMPUTER LAB A/C GMS	\$5,645
1.800.6300.6320	ART 6 5/16 GREASE TRAP	\$543
1.800.6420.6050	ART 8 06 – DRAINAGE UPGRADES	\$11,149
1.800.6491.6180	ART 6 5/16 SPORTS TOPPER MODEL	\$198
1.800.6161.6328	ART 18 ATM 5/16 STORAGE SHELVES	\$5,000
	TOTAL	\$74,006

Chart 2

Department	Project	Cost
LEASE Fire	Engine 2	\$109,500
LEASE School	Uninvents NGES	\$69,500
LEASE DPW	Sweeper	\$33,175

Cemetery & Parks	Replace 2005 Chevrolet Pickup	\$40,000
Police	4 Pole Mounted Radar Units	\$16,000
Library	Self-Check Workstations	\$22,800
Election & Registration	Voter Scanner System	\$42,000
Election & Registration	Poll Pads	\$13,725
General Government	ADA Accessible Service Counters	\$44,500
School	Replacement of Classroom Furniture	\$60,000
School	Building Security System – District Wide	\$75,000
School	Replace floor tiles at MSES	\$27,000
School	Carpet Replacement at NGES	\$50,000
School	Replace failed concrete curbs at GHS	\$65,000
School	Music Room Carpet Replacement	\$42,000
School	Replace stair tread that is failing	\$70,000
School	Stage at NSES requires maintenance	\$35,000
School	Sidewalk repair – MSES	\$15,000
School	Preschool Playground NGES	\$45,000
School	Bathroom Upgrades - NGES	\$45,000
	TOTAL	\$920,200

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 16. FIRE DEPARTMENT INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to raise and appropriate one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), for the purpose of funding the Fire Department Insurance Supplement established under Article 15 of the March 16, 1987, Special Town Meeting, which is used for the purpose of paying not more than 75.00% of a firefighter's gross pay in case of injury while on duty as specified in Article 15 of the March 16, 1987, Special Town Meeting.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 17. AUTHORIZE TREASURER/COLLECTOR TO BORROW MONEY

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and amendments thereto, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, and amendments thereto.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 18. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Upon motion of Sargon Hanna, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000, said sum to be added to the Unemployment Compensation Account, for the purpose of paying the Unemployment Compensation expenses of the Town.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 19. FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FROM WRTA

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to request funding of transportation services from the WRTA, and to contract for and provide elderly bus services for the Town of Grafton for the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 20. CITY/TOWN CLERK COMPENSATION AS MEMBER OF BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to see if the Town will accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 41, Section 19J of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 21. SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to pass over this article.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 22. PURCHASE LAND AT 46 & 48 WORCESTER STREET

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the purchase of property located at 46 and 48 Worcester Street to be used and developed at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, and to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$149,900 for the purpose of purchasing that property.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 23. CPC - OPERATING BUDGET

Upon motion of Sargon Hanna, it was voted to authorize the use of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of the fiscal year 2018 Community Preservation revenues, for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC).

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 24. CPC - PELL FARM BOND PAYMENT

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$87,225 from the fiscal year 2018 Community Preservation revenues for the purpose of making the interest and principal payments on the \$1.2 million bond issued for the purchase of the Pell Farm property.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 25. CPC - GRAFTON TOWN HOUSE BOND PAYMENT

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$74,250 from the fiscal year 2018 Community Preservation revenues, for the purpose of making the interest and principle payments on the \$1.1 million bond issued for the renovation of the Grafton Town House.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 26. SICK AND VACATION BUYBACK

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$13,776 to fund the accumulated sick and vacation leave buyback for retiring employees.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 27. FIRE HYDRANTS– GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to accept the following hydrants from the Grafton Water District:

- #516 through #524 Magnolia Lane (9 hydrants)
- #526 Avalon Way
- #527 Avalon Way
- #673 Harris Road, and
- #675 Pleasant Street

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 28. AMEND GRAFTON WETLANDS PROTECTION BYLAW SECTION 4 & 5

Upon motion of Sargon Hanna, it was voted to amend Sections 4 and 5 of the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw as printed in Article 28 of the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 29. AMEND GRAFTON WETLANDS PROTECTION BYLAW SECTION 5B

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to amend Section 5B of the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw as printed in Article 29 of the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 30. AMEND GRAFTON WETLANDS PROTECTION BYLAW SECTION 6

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to amend Section 6 of the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw as printed in Article 30 of the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 31. AMEND GRAFTON WETLANDS PROTECTION BYLAW SECTION 6

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to amend Section 6 of the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw as printed in Article 31 of the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 32. AMEND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BYLAW SECTION 7B

Upon motion of Craig Dauphinais, it was voted to amend Section 7B of the Grafton Stormwater Management Bylaw as printed in Article 32 of the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

ARTICLE 33. AMEND ZONING BYLAWS

Upon motion of Sargon Hanna, it was voted to amend the Zoning Bylaws as printed in Article 33 of the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Michael Scully, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 34. AMEND ZONING BYLAW BY AMENDING ZONING MAP

Upon motion of Jennifer Thomas, it was voted to amend the Zoning Bylaws as printed in Article 34 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Michael Scully, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 35. AMEND ZONING BYLAW BY ADDING A NEW SECTION

Upon motion of Brook Padgett, it was voted to add a new section to the Zoning Bylaw as printed in Article 35 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Michael Scully, Chairman of the Planning Board, read the Planning Board report.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 36. ADOPT STRETCH CODE BYLAW

Upon motion of Bruce Spinney, it was voted to enact Chapter 39 of the Town of Grafton General Bylaws entitled “Stretch Energy Code” with an effective date of July 1, 2017.

The Moderator declared the motion carried by the required two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE 37. CITIZENS PETITION – PLASTIC BAG BYLAW

Upon motion of Ann Marie Foley, it was voted to amend the General Bylaws by adopting a bylaw entitled “Plastic Bag Reduction” as follows:

Section 1. – Definitions

SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAG

A single-use carryout bag is made of plastic, paper or other material that is provided to a customer by an establishment and is used to transport merchandise from the establishment. Single-use carryout bags do not include recycled paper bags or a re-usable grocery bag. Single-use carryout bags do not include bags typically without handles used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, small bags to contain fish, meats, produce and other products selected by the consumer to deliver items to the point of sale or checkout area of the store.

REUSABLE CARRYOUT BAG:

- 1) Is made solely of or in a combination of natural cloths, synthetic fibers, other washable material or of non-toxic plastic.
- 2) Is specifically designed for multiple reuse and has handles.

RECYCLABLE PAPER BAG

A paper bag that is 100% recyclable and contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content.

ESTABLISHMENT

An establishment means any business selling goods, articles, or personal services to the public, including restaurants with a gross interior space of 3000 square feet or larger; or business having at least 2 locations under the same ownership or brand name within the Town of Grafton.

Section 2. PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION

Thin-film single use plastic carryout bags shall not be distributed, used, or sold for checkout at Retail Establishments within the Town of Grafton. Customers are encouraged to bring their own reusable shopping bags to stores. Retail or grocery stores are to make reusable checkout bags available for sale to customers at a reasonable price. Thin-film plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, are still permissible. Retail establishments may use Recyclable Paper Bags, with or without handles, at the point of sale.

SECTION 3. ENFORCEMENT

This Bylaw may be enforced by the Board of Health or by the Town Administrator.

All the requirements set forth in this bylaw shall take effect July 1, 2018.

The Moderator declared the motion carried.

Motion was made to adjourn at 11:56 pm.

The Moderator declared the motion carried

A true copy,
Attest,

Donna M. Girouard
Town Clerk